

Record of Environmental Consideration (REC)

REC FY05-28

From: DPW, Environmental Division

Project title: Special Forces Team Houses (SFH)

1. Project Description: This project is to provide Special Forces with an independent training area to replicate scenarios in which Special Forces personnel operate from independent sites. The sites are near, but separate from the MOUTs and Forward Operating Bases (FOB's). The project will involve grading and leveling of some of the area (approximately 50' x 60') at each site. On top of the graded surface 3 Antcons (8' x 40' each) will be placed in a U shape. The outer perimeter will be concertina wire with 10-20 HESCO barriers near the entrance. The approximate area within the boundary will be 4.5 acres. The area at each site will be used to support 20-30 personnel and approximately 8 vehicles.

2. Location: NV 329164 (SFH site 2) and NV 247256 (SFH site 3).

3. Mission Effects: The mission of the NTC and Fort Irwin is to "Provide tough realistic combined arms and joint training focused at the battalion task force and brigade level, to assist commanders in training the soldiers, leaders, and units of America's army for success on the modern battlefield. Provide feedback to improve the force. Take care of soldiers, civilians and family members." The project will aid the mission by allowing Special Forces to train and operate from independent bases.

4. Environmental Effects: Both Natural and Cultural Resources surveyed the project area on August 19, 2005 and the results were that no threatened or endangered species were in the immediate area and that no cultural/archeological resources were found. SFH site 3 provides some value as wildlife habitat and Desert Tortoise or other wildlife could move into the area causing encounters to occur. SFH site 2 is highly disturbed and provides very little if any value as wildlife habitat. If a Desert Tortoise sighting or encounters with other wildlife occur at either site the personnel on site are to follow post regulations for reporting the occurrence. The area at each site will have some disturbance due to the small amount of construction and men associated with the sites. The area to be graded is the major area where disturbance will occur. The total area of new disturbance for the two sites is expected to be less than 5 cumulative acres. Most of the two sites will be untouched or used for foot travel. The construction is in the area near the FOB's and MOUT's and so air quality will not be adversely affected by this project. The project, by design, is in a "hidden" area and visual resources will not be affected. There are no hazardous/toxic wastes currently in the area and/or anything that could potentially affect human health.

5. Anticipated date and/or duration of proposed action: August 22, 2005 through August 26, 2005

6. Screening Criteria for Using a Categorical Exclusion: This Categorical Exclusion/Record of Environmental Consideration meets the screening criteria as required in 32 CFR 651.29 (a). The action has not been segmented. No exceptional circumstances exist as defined under section (b) of 32 CFR 651.29. One (or more) CX encompasses the proposed action. There will be no cumulative effects on the environment as a result of this action. This action is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. There are no threatened or endangered species (or critical habitat), significant archaeological resources, National Registered or National Register eligible historical sites, or other statutorily protected resources.

7. Reason for using record of environmental consideration:

- a. Is covered in an existing __EA__EIS entitled and dated: _____

The EA/EIS may be viewed at: _____

- b. Is categorically excluded under the provisions of CX **C-1** 32 CFR 651 (March 29,2002), Subpart D, (and no extraordinary circumstances exist as defined in paragraph 4-3), because:

The proposed construction project does not disturb more than 5.0 cumulative acres of new surface.

Prepared by:


RYAN P. LONG

NEPA Coordinator
Directorate of Public Works

DATE: 8-22-2005

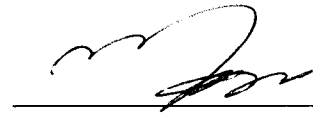
Reviewed by:


WILLIAM M. QUILLMAN

Natural and Cultural Resources Team Lead
Directorate of Public Works

DATE: 8-23-2005

Staff Concurrence:



MUHAMMAD A. BARI
Chief, Environmental Division
Directorate of Public Works

DATE: 8/24/05

Approving Officer:



PAUL D. CRAMER
LTC, EN
Director of Public Works

DATE: 25 Aug 05

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF DPW
CULTURAL RESOURCES
4999 Goldstone Road
Fort Irwin, CA 92310

G-3 SPECIAL FORCES - SAFE HOUSES SURVEY

PROJECT DPW-066
DATE: June 15, 2005

Introduction

Project DPW-066 consists of the G-3 Special Forces Safe Houses Project. The G-3 Special Forces project consists of the construction of barricaded houses that will operate independently from the base. The project will provide sleeping quarters for 20-30 soldiers and parking for 8 vehicles with access by a gate.

Procedures

A cultural resources investigation (inventory and evaluation) for the G-3 Special Forces Safe House project was conducted pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the NTC, the California SHPO, and the Advisory Council of 1981, as amended in 1983. The Fort Irwin Cultural Resource Database (FICRD) was consulted prior to fieldwork to determine whether previously recorded sites exist within the Areas of Potential Effects (APE) for the project.

The Undertaking, as defined by the NHPA of 1966 (as amended), consists of surface disturbances for the Safe House Project includes grading, and the use of already established road. The Areas of Potential Effects (APE) for the G-3 Safe Houses Project is identified on the attached map and consist of an area measuring 100 m N-S by 160 m E-W, 160,000 m² (3.95) acres. Previously recorded cultural resources are at least 3.8k outside of the APE for the Safe Houses Project. No previously unidentified cultural resources were discovered during survey. As a result, these Undertakings will have no effect on cultural resources if the projects are conducted completely within the identified APE for the project.

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF DPW
CULTURAL RESOURCES
4999 Goldstone Road
Fort Irwin, CA 92310

1. Project Number: DPW-066

2. Project Name: G-3 Special Forces Safe House Survey

3. Project Proponent: G-3.

4. Project Description: The project will provide a site for a Special Forces (SF) Safe House with protective barrier to replicate scenarios in which SF personnel to operate from independent bases. The site will have working/sleeping quarters for 20-30 soldiers, room for about 8 vehicles, and a secure perimeter with gated access including 3 storage containers (Anteons) (10' x 40' each). Area for Anteon placement will be graded and leveled. Outer perimeter fence will be constructed of concertina wire with 10-20 HESCO barriers (collapsible metal containers that are expanded and filled with soil) near the entrance. Temporary power (generators) and sanitary facilities (porta-potties) contracted by the SOF units when the site is occupied.

5. Individual Conducting Inventory: DPW cultural resources personnel, Harold Brewer, Jim Shearer, and Nick Reseburg.

6. Report Date: June 15, 2005

7. Inventory Date(s): Survey was conducted on April 15, 2005. A total of 7.5 man hours went into surveying the G-3 Special Forces Safe House project area.

8. Location: ☒ Not for Publication ☐ Unrestricted

9. County San Bernardino

10. USGS 7.5' Quad West of Red Pass Lake, CA, **Date** 1986 **T** 14N ; **R** 5E ; SE ¼ of NE ¼ of Sec 19 ; **SBPM**

11. SW corner UTM (NAD 1983): Zone 11 547000 mE 3905200 mN

12. In-house Records Check: YES X NO

13. Inventories located within a kilometer of the area of potential effect: YES
NO X

14. Sites within the area of potential effect: YES NO X

15. Unrecorded sites within the area of potential effect: YES _____ NO X

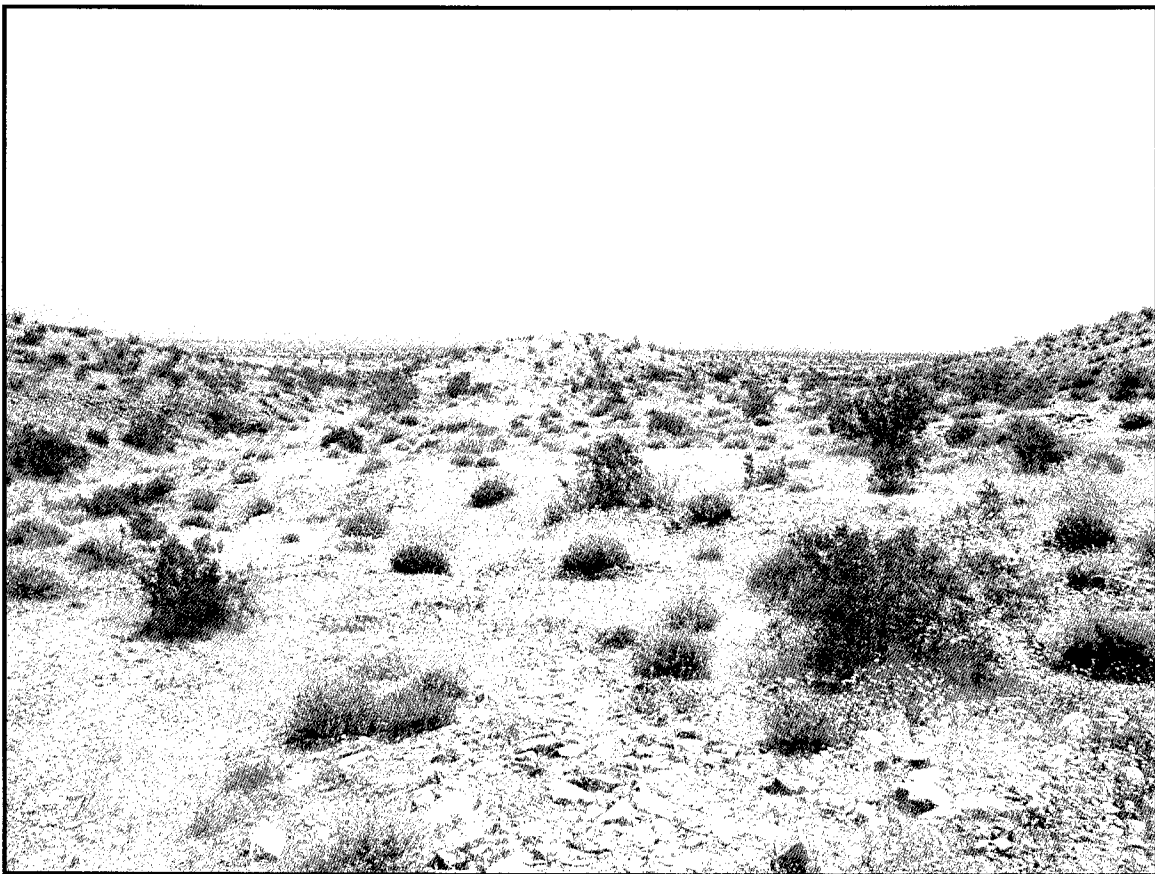
16. Eligible sites for the NRHP: YES _____ NO X

17. Acres Inventoried: 1.6 Km2 3.95 acres

18. Number of resources within the APE: None

18 a. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) AP; None

18 b Resources ☐ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☒ Site ☐ District ☐
Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.) None



18c. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession #): Overview of the G-3 Special Forces Safe House project area facing south. April 15, 2005 photo #P4150012.

19. A. Description: A pedestrian survey of the Special Forces Safe House APE was conducted and completed on April 15, 2005 by DPW cultural resources personnel, Harold Brewer, Jim Shearer, and Nick Reseburg. Survey transects 15 meters wide were conducted utilizing a Garmin handheld GPS unit.

B. Ground Visibility: 95+% ground visibility

20. The project (s) will have: No Effect X Effect No Adverse Effect on cultural resources.

21. Recommendations: Previously undiscovered archaeological remains uncovered during any post activities, including all live-fire exercises and training, will be managed pursuant to regulations at 36 CFR 800.11. In the event that buried or otherwise obscured cultural resources are encountered during any ground disturbing activity at Ft. Irwin, activities in the area of any find will be halted immediately within a 50-m radius and the Post Archaeologist contacted (760-380-4865; luz.ramirezdebryson@irwin.army.mil). These finds may include, but are not limited to, stone chips or flakes and other stone artifacts, soil containing shell, faunal remains and/or heat-altered rock, historic trash dumps, or other cultural features. The discovery of cultural items, as defined in NAGPRA, will require that the procedures in section 6.2.3.4.3 be observed.

Inadvertent Discovery of Native American Cultural Items

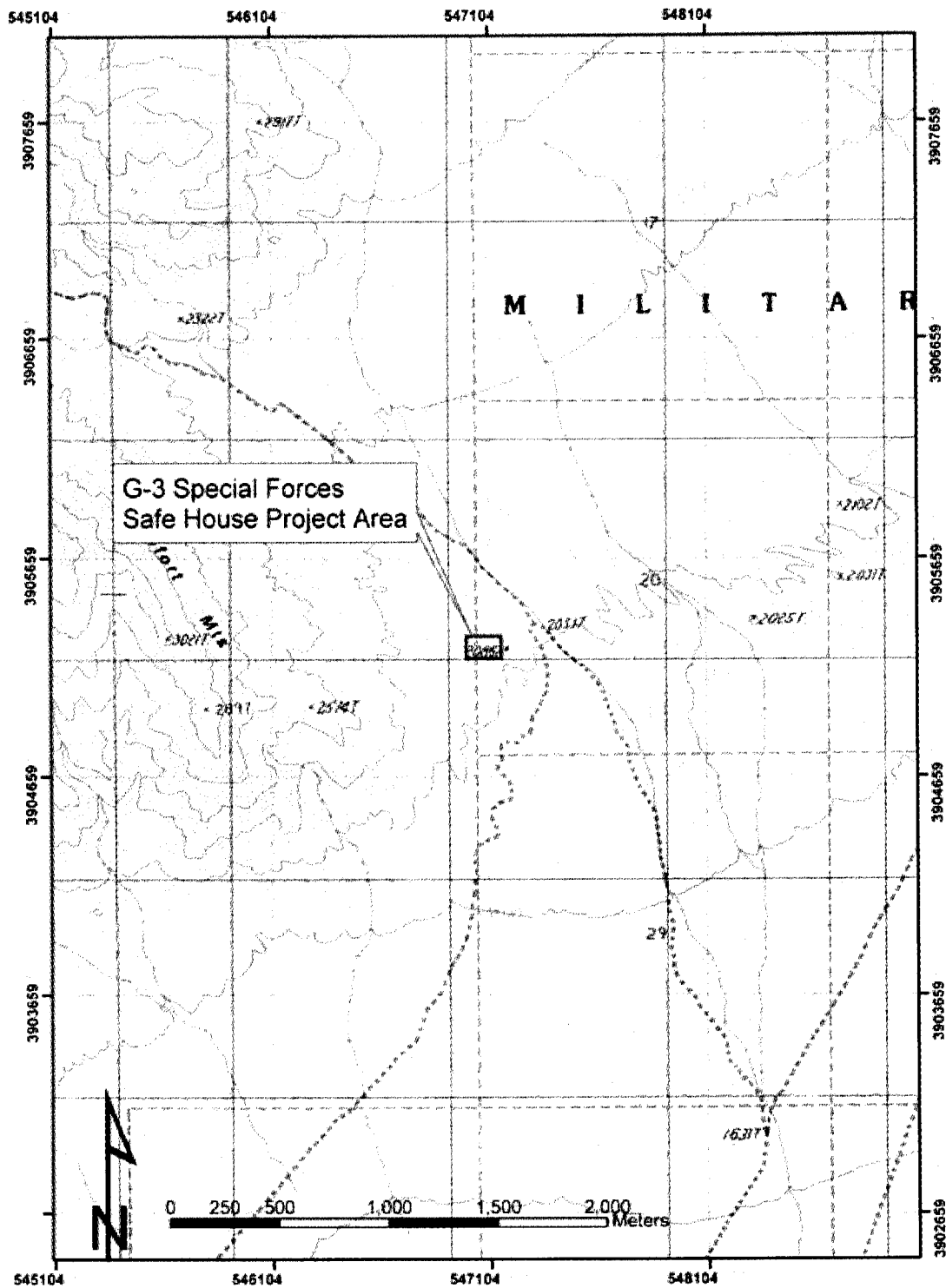
Following 43 CFR 10.4, the following procedures will be implemented in the event of the inadvertent discovery of Native American cultural items (as defined by NAGPRA):

- The Commander, Ft. Irwin, and the Cultural Resources Manager (Mickey Quillman 760-380-3740; mickey.quillman@irwin.army.mil) will be notified immediately via telephone, radio, or other appropriate communication devices upon the discovery of human remains, even during the conduct of rotational training exercises in the LFX.

After these individuals are contacted, an effort should be made to determine the ethnic affiliation of the remains. The Cultural Resources Manager will assume responsibility for contacting the San Bernardino County coroner's office. If the remains are modern and affiliation cannot be determined, the remains will be turned over by the Army to the county coroner's office for final disposition. If the remains are Native American in origin, the provisions described in NAGPRA and AR 200-4 apply.

Prepared By: Harold C. L. Brewer

Date: June 15, 2005



G-3 Special Forces Safe House Project Area.

MEMORANDUM for Record

SUBJECT: Findings from pre-construction survey for Special Forces Safe Houses at Alpine Pass and Brown Cut

1. Pre-construction surveys at the above sites, Alpine Pass NV 2473125692 and Brown Cut NV3291916457 respectively, were conducted on Friday, 19 August 2005 by DPW Biologist Taura Huxley with the assistance of DPW Intern Amy Anderson.

2. Alpine Pass SOF findings:

Plant species: *Krameria erecta*, *Ambrosia dumosa*, *Ephedra nevadensis*, *Larrea tridentata*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Eriogonum deflexum*, *Echinocactus polycephalus*, *Thamnosma montana*, *Achnatherum speciosum*, *Encelia actonii*, *Hymenoclea salsola*, *Opuntia basilaris*, *Xylorhiza tortifolia*, *Eriogonum inflatum*

Animal species: *Spermophilus tereticaudus*, *Equus asinus* (sign), *Athene cunicularia*.

No species of significant concern were found. However, this is a biologically diverse area and is good habitat for desert tortoises. Care should be exercised to minimize disturbance. Additionally, an active burrowing owl nest was found at grid NV2479925717. Flagging tape was placed adjacent to the nest on a shrub, and this area is to be avoided by both equipment and foot traffic.

3. Brown Cut SOF findings:

Plant species: *Senna armata*, *Salazaria mexicana*, *Krameria erecta*, *Ambrosia dumosa*, *Ephedra nevadensis*, *Larrea tridentata*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Eriogonum deflexum*, *Echinocactus polycephalus*, *Thamnosma montana*, *Encelia farinosa*, *Hymenoclea salsola*, *Opuntia basilaris*, *Xylorhiza tortifolia*, *Grayia spinosa*

Animal species: none

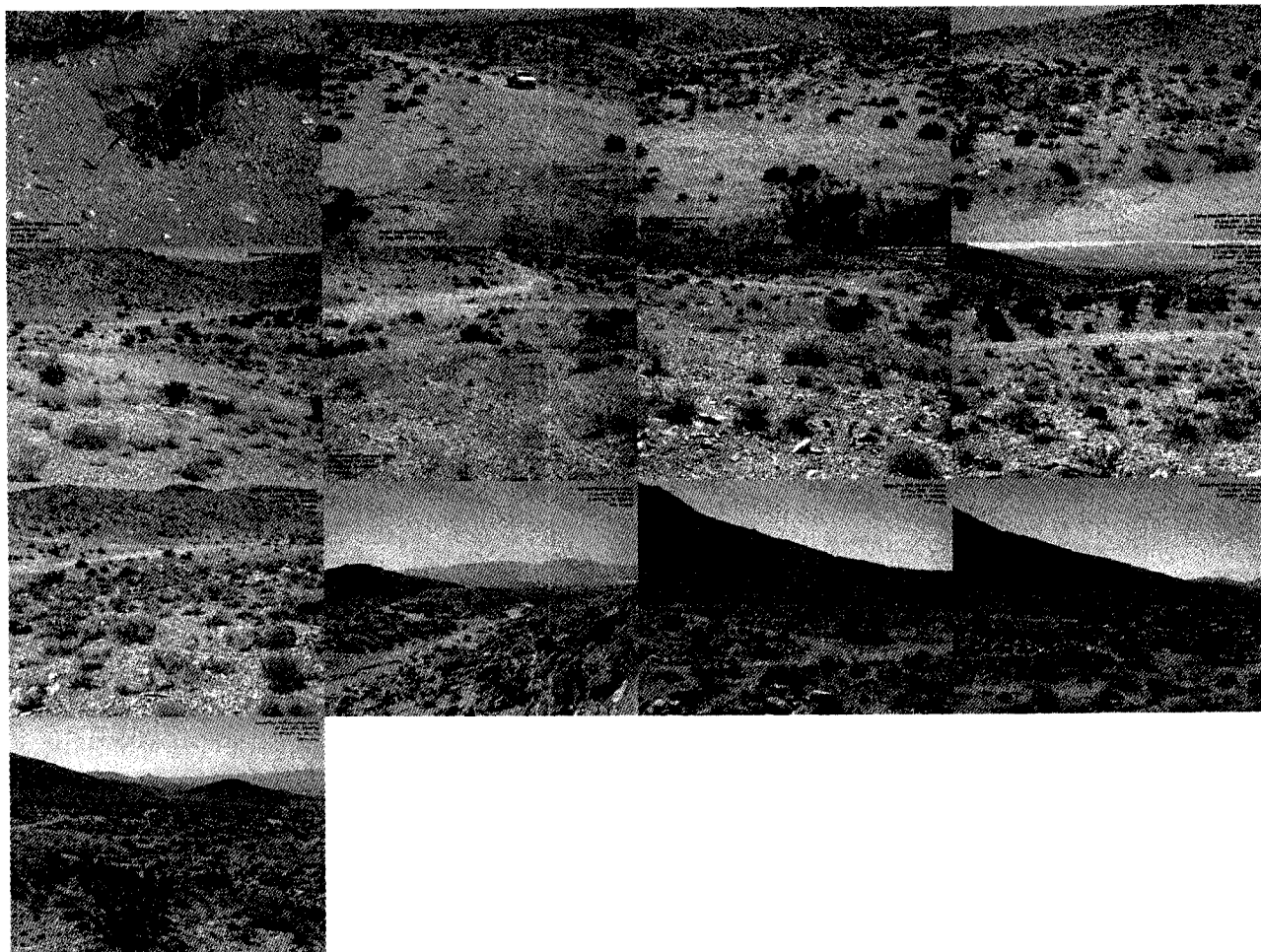
No species of significant concern were found. This area was disturbed prior to construction. However, care should be taken to minimize impacts outside of the construction footprint.

4. POC for further information is Taura Huxley, Wildlife Biologist (DPW-ENV) at COMM 380-2678 / DSN 470-2678.

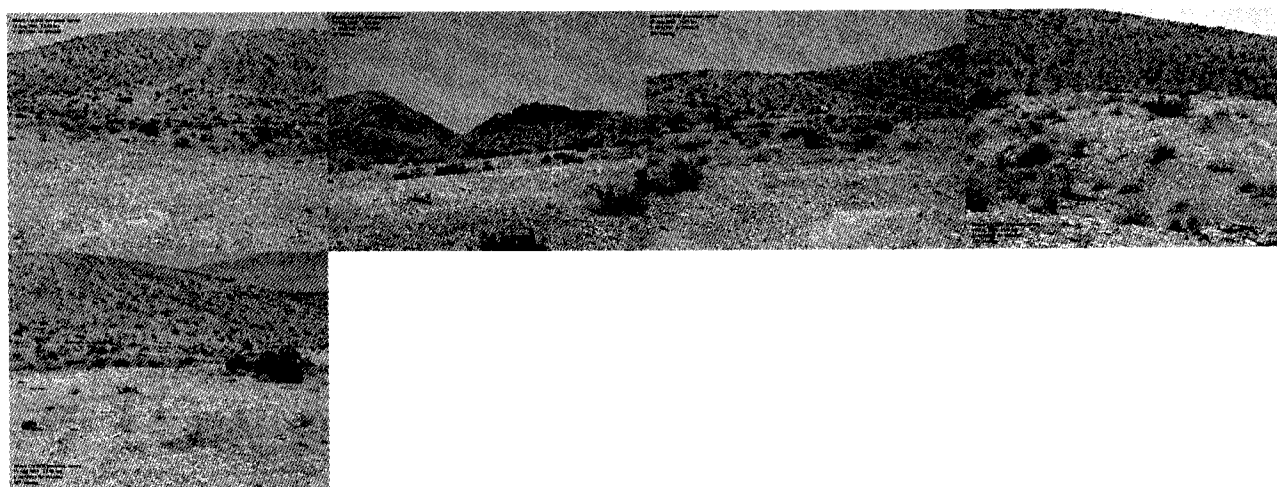


TAURA HUXLEY
Wildlife Biologist, DPW-ENV

Alpine Pass SOF site photos:



Brown Cut SOF site photos:



Note: *all photos are available in high resolution*

This form requests information about your project so that the Environmental Division, NTC, Fort Irwin, CA can have a better understanding about what level of environmental review your project will entail. Please provide as much detail as possible, and include any project design reports, 1391 forms, maps or other supporting information.

Failure to complete the following information may result in delays and/or cancellations of your projects.

Name of Proposed Project/Action: SF Team House Sites

Point of Contact name, title: Don Parker, G3 TSD – Range Officer

Point of Contact Telephone number, Email: x4624, donald.parker@irwin.army.mil

Describe Proposed Action/Project:

1. **Who is the proponent (supporter) of this project:** Don Parker

2. **Proponent's Organization:** G3 TSD

3. **Contracting Office and/or Name of Potential Contractor:** Don Parker

Phone #: x4624

Reserve component engineers from NY (328th EN CO) and PA (365th EN CBT BN) will be grading/leveling the area and placing the Anteons. Don Parker will be their POC.

4. **Purpose of the project:**

Provide two sites for Special Forces Team Houses with protective barrier to replicate scenarios in which SF personnel to operate from independent bases. These site need to be in the vicinity of, but separate from, the urban sites and FOBs. The sites must have working/sleeping quarters for 20-30 soldiers, room for about 8 vehicles, and a secure perimeter with gated access.

5. **Need of the project (Be very specific in your need for this action):**

Currently there is one sites that meets the criteria specified in #4, but several more are needed in association with existing FOBs and villages to provide additional training scenarios.

6. **Location of Proposed Project (Inside cantonment area, provide street location; outside cantonment area provide a 10-digit UTM coordinate):**

Center of mass NV 3292 1646 (vic Brown Pass) and NV 247 256 (southeast of Alpine Valley). Graded area at center of site will be approximately 50' x 60' with outer perimeter at a radius of approximately 100m (320'). Foot and wheeled vehicle activity around the site will extend to 500m (1640')

7. **Projected start date:** 22 August 2005

8. **Projected completion date:** 26 August 2005

Anteons will be emplaced within a week of start date, perimeter fence will be constructed at a later date.

9. **Is this a temporary or permanent project:** Temporary, no permanent foundations will be laid for the buildings.

10. **Are any buildings being demolished? If yes, then give building numbers:** No

11. **Complete description of project/action (Be very specific and include quantity, square footage, width, depth, type of materials used for construction, utilities to be included, diameter of area, usage of area, types of vehicles/aircraft/weapons to be used/stored, number of personal that will be using the facility, etc.):**

- 3 Anteons (8' x 40' each) in a U-shape within a central area of approximately 3000 sq ft (920 sq m)
- Area for Anteon placement will be graded and leveled
- Total area within perimeter approximately 4.5 acres (102,400 sqft, 10,000 sqm)
- Area used by 20-30 soldiers per rotation
- Support parking for approximately 8 vehicles (HMMWVs and trucks).
- Outer perimeter constructed of concertina wire with 10-20 HESCO barriers (collapsible metal containers that are expanded and filled with soil) near the entrance.
- Temporary power (generators) and sanitary facilities (porta-potties) contracted by the SOF units when the site is occupied.

12. **Describe how this project is mission/training related:**

This facility supports SF training requirements and will enable SF ops to be incorporated into currently scheduled rotations. Will provide training opportunities for SF personnel and increased realism for rotational units.

Please return completed form to Ryan Long, NEPA Coordinator, Bldg 602, Phone ext. 3088, ryan.paul.long@us.army.mil

Signature of POC: _____

Date: _____